CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication:	sim15
Other known title(s):	Not stated
OFLC ref:	1900104.025
Medium:	Image File
Publisher:	Not stated
Country of origin:	Not stated
Language:	English
Applicant:	Commissioner of Police
Classification:	Objectionable.
Descriptive note:	None
Display conditions:	None
Date of entry in Register:	30 May 2019
Date of direction to issue a label:	No direction to issue a label has been issued
Date of notice of decision:	30 May 2019

Summary of reasons for decision:

The image file explicitly depicts the character Lisa Simpson being subjected to an act of sexual violence. The image does not promote and support criteria under s3(2)(a) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993, but it does deal with acts of sexual violence and sexual conduct involving children to a high extent and degree. The imagery and accompanying text are misogynistic. This image has a cruel and sadistic tone that overwhelms any humorous or satirical intent. It at the very least trivialises sexual violence against children for the viewer's amusement. It has the clear potential for attitudinal harm, by perpetuating the idea that sexual violence against children is a subject of titillation and amusement. There is a strong likelihood of injury to the public good from the trivialisation of such behaviour and attitudes, which is likely to have a detrimental effect on wider society. The classification of objectionable interferes with the right to freedom of expression as affirmed by the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, but is justifiable given the high risk of injury to the public good which cannot be adequately prevented by an age restriction.